

**NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day**

*August 11, 2024*  
*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*



***WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP! You are special, because God brought you here today. Together we celebrate and rejoice in God's blessings in our lives!***

## GATHER JOYFULLY

### THE PRELUDE

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

II Samuel 18:5-9; Psalm 130; John 6:24-35

(Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages as they prepare for worship.)

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

**May the hope that is ours in Christ be with you.**

GATHERING HYMN 2 *Come, Thou Almighty King*

**Come, thou almighty King,**

**help us thy name to sing;**

**help us to praise:**

**Father, all glorious,**

**o'er all victorious,**

**come, and reign over us,**

**Ancient of Days.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 118)

Minister: O Lord, You alone are our answer

and our salvation.

**Congregants: The stone the builders cast away**

**has become the foundation.**

Minister: This is the day You have made for us,

and we rejoice to see it!

**Congregants: You give us light in the world's darkness,**

**and Your love is everlasting.**

Minister: Come, let us worship God.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 41 *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!*

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**God of grace, and God of mercy,**

**we gather before You in worship and thanksgiving,**

**to sing Your praise and hear truth from Your Word.**

**You are always there with us, always there for us,**

**taking our hand and guiding us through the storms of life.  
You call us to follow, and our hearts rejoice,  
but so often we let other voices distract and lead us astray.  
When the waters are high and the wind blows,  
we forget your unfailing goodness and power to save us.  
Forgive our sins, O Lord, and help us to be faithful.  
Give us Your strength, Your peace, Your presence.  
Be merciful to us, and renew our spirits.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

The poet writes:

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow.  
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress."  
Friends, hear the Good News: God is with us,  
and in Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God!

**\*RESPONSE HYMN 581 *Glory Be to the Father***

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

**GROW SPIRITUALLY**

**THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Genesis 12:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' <sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the Lord appeared

to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

#### THE PASTORAL PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

HYMN 442 *Just as I Am, without One Plea*

#### MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

##### THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Hebrews 11:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. <sup>4</sup> By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks. <sup>5</sup>By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and 'he was not found, because God had taken him.' For it was attested before he was taken away that 'he had pleased God.' <sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. <sup>7</sup>By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith. <sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**How firm a foundation is laid for our faith  
in Your life-giving Word, O Lord!**

**As we hear Your Word read and proclaimed,  
may our faith be strengthened so that we can follow  
wherever our Lord Jesus calls and leads.**

**In his name we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

*LESSONS FROM ABRAHAM*

Dr. Russ Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 744 *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**Lord Jesus, you call us to follow you in faith,  
and you give us all we need to serve you.**

**Bless these gifts that we now bring,  
so that they may be used faithfully  
to share the good news of your love.**

**In your holy name we pray. Amen.**

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* (unison)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## GO FAITHFULLY

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION 39 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

\*CHARGE

\*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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*We welcome and thank C.W. Markham for providing today's music.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Circle 1 will meet Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 at the Bistro at Friendship Manor for lunch.

It's Hunger Buster time again. If you would like to participate, pick up a bag from the narthex. We will deliver them to the PCC on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

WE ARE GETTING BACK TOGETHER AGAIN TAKE 4 Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrate the wonderful fellowship and family of Northminster! The worship service will be special, and there will be a super picnic luncheon following the service. Please make your plans to join us, and please bring your friends, family members, and others! Please be sure to sign your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Or call the church office and let Susie know.

### Calendar

|             |          |                                     |
|-------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Today       | 9:30 am  | Sunday School                       |
|             | 10:30 am | Summer Worship                      |
| Tuesday     | 11:30 am | Circle 1 at Bistro Friendship Manor |
| Nest Sunday | 9:30 am  | Sunday School                       |
|             | 10:30 am | Summer Worship                      |

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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WEBSITE: WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

Russ Merritt, Pastor                      Melissa Hudson, Music Director  
Susie Tallmage, Secretary  
Ministers...Members of Northminster

If you or someone you know should be included in the list of those needing special prayer, please contact the Pastor. If prayers have been answered and we can celebrate God's goodness by removing your name from the list, let the Pastor know.

**Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.**

**Members**

|                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Bill Bailey     | Frances Bowling | Ellen Brumfield |
| Pam Claterbaugh | Marie Haines    | Jake Hayes      |
| Hayes Family    | Dennis Kincer   | Patsy Linton    |
| Floyd Moretz    | Ann Pace        | Mac Pace        |
| Buddy Smith     | Sandy Smith     | Vicki Whitworth |

**Friends and Family**

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Nancy Assaid    | Joaquin Bielawski |
| Shirley Basham  | Donna Betters     |
| Lucy Collier    | Terry Foss        |
| Issac Franklin  | Molly Guerrant    |
| Gladys Hughston | Skylar Kirby      |
| Vicki Widener   |                   |

**\*THE SESSION \***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson  
Elders: Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Dana Esworthy, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt,  
Maggie Hambrick, Gary Harris, Jyke Jones, Lynn Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Judy Moore, Dora  
Slee, Dave Snider, Greg Theimer